concerned Cadre Controlling Authorities in the Central Government are competent to grant them study leave.

(b) Study leave does not affect the senirority of an officer.

(c) The officers are paid leave salary and other allowances during the study leave. The cost of the study is generally borne by the Officers. Sometimes, the concerned universities also provide scholarship/fellowship etc. for study. There are provisions for payment of study allowances. There is also a scheme of "Partial Funding of Foreign Study" for all Group "A" officers under which financial assistance for foreign study is provided.

IAS officers are permitted to undertake study abroad by the Department of Personnel & Training on the recommendations of State Governments or the Central Ministries or Departments where they are posted. In other cases, the Cadre Controlling Authorities in the Central Ministries and Departments are competent to grant study leave.

(d) IAS officers posted in the the Centre and other Central Government officers can retain the Government accommodation while on study leave. Retention of Government accomodation by IAS officers posted in the States is governed by the rules/regulations of the respective State Governments.

Sending of IAS officers to America

1868. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have sent a batch of IAS officers to American Institutes for a special training;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government are considering the certificate issued by those institutes in promotions of IAS cadre;

(c) whether the Ministry is aware of our own institutes for cadre training;

(d) if so, the reasons for sending IAS officers to American Institutes;

(e) whether Government had issued Government order for sending IAS officers to America; and

(f) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCESAND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) to (0 No, Sir. The mandatory mid career training programme for IAS officers, which the Government has decided to introduce at three different levels in thier career, would be conducted in India. These will be a programme of 8-weeks between the 7th and 9th year of service, another 8-weeks between the 14th and 16th year of service and a programme of 4-weeks between the 26th and 28th year of service. For the programme designed for officers between 7th to 9th year of service and for officers between 14th to 16th year of service, there is a component of exposure visit abroad. This Mid Career Training programme would henceforth be a necessary but not a sufficient condition for promotion. Further, participation in the programme designed for officers between the 26 and 28th year of service shall be a minimum requirement for empanelment as Additional Secretary or Secretary in Government of India and for further increments after the 28 the year of service.

The work of detailed design and delivery of each of the Phases of the Mid Career Training has been entrusted to the following pairs of institutions selected by an Expert Committee constituted for this purpose.

1. The TERI School of Advanced Studies, New Delhi and the Duke Centre for International Development of Duke University, for the programme designed for officers with 7 to 9 years of service.
2. The Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore and the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs of Syracuse University, for the programme designed for officers with 14 to 16 of service.
3. The Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad and the Kennedy School of Government of Harvard University, for the programme disigned for officers with 26 to 28 years of service.

A premier Indian institution is associated with each phase of the mid-career programme.

The programme designed for officers with 26 to 28 years of service has been conducted at MM, Ahmedabad from the 2nd to 25th January, 2007. The programme designed for officers with 14 to 16 years of service is scheduled to commence from the 23rd April, 2007 and the programme designed for officers with 7 to 9 years of service is proposed to be conducted

from the 11th June, 2007. The latter two programmes would be conducted at the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration, Mussoorie.

Deletion of Articles 310 and 311

1869. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:
SHRI AMAR SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Administrative Reforms Commission has recommended deletion of Article 310 which deals with the tenure of office of persons serving the Union or a State and also Article 311 relating to dismissal, removal or reduction in rank of persons employed in civil capacity under State or Union;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) Government's reaction in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. While recommending repeal of Articles 310 and 311 of the Constitution, the Administrative Reforms Commission (ARC) has recommended enacting a suitable legislation to provide for all necessary terms and conditions of services under Article 309. The ARC Report in this regard titled 'Ethics in Governance' has already been put on the website at *httD://arc.gov.in* for general information.

(c) The recommendations of the ARC are being looked into.

Enactment of Reservation Act

1870. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details regarding assurance given in the National Common Minimum Programme for enactment of Reservation Act;

(b) whether the Ministry introduced such a Bill in the Parliament;

(c) if so, the date and the House in which it was introduced; and